

FAST FACTS

Implementing a Title I Pre-kindergarten Program

It is an allowable use of Title I funds to establish a pre-kindergarten program that prepares children to enter elementary school with the language, cognitive, and early reading skills they needed to succeed. A high quality Title I pre-kindergarten program plays a key role in ensuring that students will meet State academic achievement standards in elementary school and beyond. Regulations applicable to a Title I program apply to a Title I pre-kindergarten program.

Funding: Title I funds may be used to fund Title I pre-kindergarten programs. In large school districts, individual buildings may use their Title I building allocation to fund the program or the district may reserve an amount from the district allocation to operate a Title I pre-kindergarten program for eligible children in the district as a whole or in a portion of the district.

Student Selection:

In a Title I Schoolwide School, all children pre-kindergarten-aged may be eligible to participate in the Title I pre-kindergarten program. In a Targeted Assistance Title I School, pre-kindergarten children must be identified as eligible to participate through a student selection process. *Please note*, unlike student selection criteria at the elementary and secondary levels, if a school/district has no existing assessment data for pre-kindergarten children, Title I funds may be used for identifying those children.

- Identify multiple, educationally related, objective criteria for student selection
- The criteria may be different than criteria used at the elementary and secondary level
- These criteria may include teacher judgment, interviews with parents, and developmentally appropriate measures of child development
- Family income levels may be a criterion used to prioritize student participation when sufficient Title I resources are not available to serve all eligible pre-kindergarten-aged children
- Children who participated in Even Start, Head Start, in a neglected and delinquent program, previous Title I funded pre-kindergarten program, and homeless children are automatically eligible for Title I pre-kindergarten if offered

Staff Qualifications:

Teachers – The Education Standards and Practices Board has defined options:

- B3 License
- Elementary Ed Major & Kindergarten Endorsement
- K-8 or K-6 License [no longer issued]
- Elementary Ed Major & Early Childhood Endorsement
- Elementary Ed Major & Early Childhood Education Minor
- Elementary Ed Major & Kindergarten Endorsement with a Master/Major/Minor/Endorsement in Early Childhood Special Ed

Paraprofessionals – Must meet the Title I requirements for paraprofessionals specified in Title I law.

Paraprofessionals must be under the direct supervision of a certified teacher, a Title I pre-kindergarten program staffed entirely by paraprofessionals is not permitted.

Department Approval:

In order to provide pre-kindergarten services, the school district must be approved under the North Dakota Century Code. This approval takes place annually through the department. The form is located on the department's website at www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/documents/77/sfn60869.pdf.

Standards:

The North Dakota Century Code requires Pre-kindergarten programs to utilize the North Dakota Pre-kindergarten Content Standards located on the department early childhood website at www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/155/NDprekconstandards.pdf.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact the Division of Student Support & Innovation at (888) 605-1951